Services of Rail Hostess

†*79. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to provide the services of Rail Hostess to the passengers in some trains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the trains/express trains in the country in which the services of Rail Hostess is to be provided; and

(c) by when, such service is likely to be provided in all the trains in the country and the effective and necessary steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) The services of Rail Hostess have been provided by the Licensee in the Executive Class of train No. 2029/2030, New Delhi-Amritsar Swam Shatabdi Express only. There is no proposal to provide the services of Rail Hostess on any other train at present.

Doubling of Bangalore-Mysore Railway Line

*80. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up doubling of railway line between Bangalore-Mysore;

(b) if so, the present status of the above work;

(c) if not, by when it will be taken;

(d) whether any survey had been done in this regard; and

(e) if so, the estimated cost of the above work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) On Bangalore-Mysore line patch doubling of Bangalore-Kengeri (12.45 kms) and Kengeri-Ramanagaram (32 kms) sections have been taken up. In Bangalore-Kengeri section, the formation work has been completed in entire length except for one major bridge where work is in progress. In Kengeri-Ramanagaram section, the formation work has been completed upto Bidadi (17.4 kms) except for one major bridge where work is in progress. Earthwork and bridge work are in progress in remaining section.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Ballast collection and other activities are also in progress in both the sections.

(d) and (e) A survey for doubling of Bangalore-Mysore section had been completed in 1997-98. As per the survey-report, the cost of doubling of this line from Bangalore to Mysore including the two sanctioned patches was worked out as Rs. 240.48 crore with electrification and Rs. 193.80 crore without electrification. The survey was got updated in 2000-2001 as per which the updated cost was worked out as Rs. 265.23 crore with electrification with a rate of return of 6.50%.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Task Force on Bio-Technological Application in Agriculture

80. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task force on application of Bio-technology in Agriculture recommended for Constitution of an autonomous National Bio-technology Regulatory Authority for promoting and monitoring the use of Bio-technology in Agriculture;

(b) if so, the major recommendations made by the Task Force;

(c) whether the Task Force also suggested for a single-window clearance for new genetically-modified varieties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major recommendations of the Task Force are enclosed as Statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) The Task Force has recommended streamlining of regulatory/approval mechanism with a view to expedite the process of evaluation and release of GM crops and setting up of National Bio-technology Regulatory Authority.

Statement

Major recommendations of the Task Force:

- The bottom line of our national agricultural biotechnology policy should be the economic well being of farm families, food security